

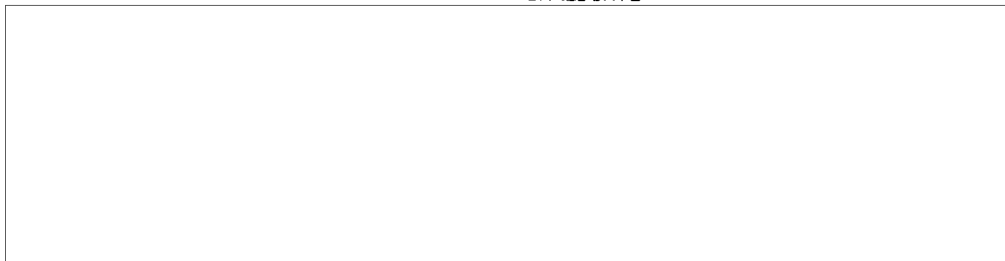
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 FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6915
 RUQMDI/AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU IMMEDIATE 5535
 INFO RUTABA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 6252
 RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 1888
 RUDKPNQ/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0125
 RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 8948
 RUQMDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI 5644
 RUQMK/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 7098
 RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 2577
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5613
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 RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC
 RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUCPBAA/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 11216

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PINS, SHUM, KE, US
 SUBJECT: THE WAJIR AFFAIR: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER
 MWANGALE

REF: (A) NAIROBI 11097, (B) NAIROBI 11033

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. AMBASSADOR AND DCM DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER
 MWANGALE AND PERMANENT SECRETARY KIPLAGAT ON TUESDAY,
 APRIL 10 TO DISCUSS CODEL O'NEILL, TOOK OCCASION TO
 REITERATE U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT WAJIR AFFAIR AND TO
 ENCOURAGE GOK COOPERATION WITH DONOR AGENCIES IN
 HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT. MWANGALE'S RESPONSE,
 WHICH WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF CHIEF SECRETARY
 KIEREINI (REF B), EMPHASIZED THAT BECAUSE OF THE
 TENUOUS SECURITY SITUATION IN THE NORTH EAST PROVINCE
 (WHICH ANTEDATES THE WAJIR INCIDENT), THE GOK COULD
 NOT ALLOW DONOR GROUPS TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY. FOR
 EXAMPLE, IT HAS LONG BEEN GOVERNMENT POLICY TO PROVIDE
 MILITARY ESCORTS TO CONVOYS OF TRAVELLERS IN THE
 NEP. MWANGALE STATED THAT FOOD RELIEF WAS NOW MOVING
 TO THE NEEDY AND REGRETTED THAT SOME EXCITABLE STAFF
 MEMBERS FROM AMREF HAD MISREPRESENTED THE SITUATION
 AND CAUSED SOME ALARM AMONG KENYA'S FRIENDS.

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3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME KENYAN OFFICIALS MIGHT BE GUILTY OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCT AND IF SO THEY WOULD BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY. AT THE SAME TIME HE WANTED TO ASSURE US THAT PRESIDENT MOI WAS PROFOUNDLY COMMITTED TO THE INTEGRATION OF KENYA'S SOMALI POPULATION INTO THE NATION AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND THE GSDR.

4. ASKED WHETHER THE GOK SAW ANY FOREIGN HAND IN THE WAJIR PROBLEM, MWANGALE SAID THAT HISTORICALLY RESIDENTS OF THE AREA HAVE ACQUIRED WEAPONS FROM GROUPS OPPOSED TO SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA THAT HAVE TRANSITTED THE AREA. THE GOK DID NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE RECENT WAJIR INCIDENT WAS THE RESULT OF FOREIGN INSTIGATION NOR HAVE THEY DETECTED ANY FOREIGN EFFORT TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION. INDEED, THE GOK IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE GSDR'S SILENCE AND GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CLAN FRICTIONS WHICH LED TO THE RECENT PROBLEMS.

5. COMMENT: THE LOCAL CRS DIRECTOR HAS CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOK IS NOW COOPERATING IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THE NEEDY IN WAJIR. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE GOK NOW FULLY APPRECIATE THE DANGERS TO KENYA'S REPUTATION IF IT DOES NOT MOVE QUICKLY TO ADDRESS THE HUMANITARIAN REQUIREMENTS IN THE NEP.

THOMAS

END OF MESSAGE

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